

The Origin and Implications of the Financial Crisis: A Socialist Perspective

Bill Van Auken, Vice Presidential Candidate for the Socialist Equality Party

"The same prostitution, the same shameless cheating, the same mania to get rich was repeated in every sphere... to get rich not by production, but by pocketing the already available wealth of others... The finance aristocracy, in its mode of acquisition as well as in its pleasures, is nothing but the rebirth of the lumpenproletariat on the heights of bourgeois society."— Karl Marx

Sunday, October 19,
1 p.m.

UC Berkeley

MLK Student Union,
Madrone West Room
(4th floor)

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It is now widely acknowledged in the press that the 2008 elections are taking place amidst the greatest crisis of American capitalism since the Great Depression of the 1930s. What was once considered to be unimaginable is now taking place: the collapse of major financial institutions and banks, tens of billions of dollars committed to corporate bailouts. Now, the Bush administration, with the support of the Democrats and both presidential candidates, has opened the US treasury to hand over hundreds of billions of dollars to buy up "toxic" securities and worthless investments from the very people who have caused this crisis.

At this public meeting, Socialist Equality Party vice presidential candidate Bill Van Auken will present a Marxist analysis of these developments. Van Auken will address the fundamental questions that are not being discussed in media or by either presidential candidate:

- What is the cause of the economic and financial crisis?
- Who will be forced to pay for it?
- What will be the implications for working people?
- What is the alternative?

The meeting is free and open to the public, with discussion to follow a political report. Contact the Socialist Equality Party at www.socialequality.com.

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